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Red flag gun laws

By John W. Whitehead

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
—George Santayana

We never learn.

Mark my words: red, which allow the police to remove guns from people suspected of being threats, will only add to the government's power.

As *The Washington Post* reports, these laws "allow a family member, roommate, beau, law enforcement officer or any type of medical professional to file a petition [with a court] asking that a person's home be temporarily cleared of firearms. It doesn't require a mental-health diagnosis or an arrest."

Moreover, as a *New York Times* editorial warns, you may be an anti-government extremist (a.k.a. domestic terrorist) in the eyes of the police if you are afraid that the government is plotting to confiscate your firearms, if you believe the economy is about to collapse and the government will soon declare martial law, or if you display an unusual number of political and/or ideological bumper stickers on your car.

Now consider what happened in Anne Arundel, Maryland after police attempted to "enforce" the state's new red flag law, which went into effect on Oct. 1.

At 5 am on a Monday, two police officers showed up at 61-year-old Gary Willis' house to serve him with a court order requiring that he surrender his guns. Willis answered the door holding a gun.

Willis initially set his gun aside while he spoke with the police. However, when the police attempted to serve him with the gun confiscation order, Willis reportedly became "irate" and picked up his gun again. At that point, a struggle ensued, causing the gun to go off. Although no one was harmed, one of the cops shot and killed Willis.

This is the world that science fiction author Philip K. Dick envisioned for *Minority Report* in which the government is all-seeing, all-knowing and all-powerful, and if you dare to step out of line, dark-clad police SWAT teams will crack a few skulls to bring the populace under control.

In Dick's dystopian police state, the police combine widespread surveillance, behavior prediction technologies, data mining and precognitive technology to capture would-be criminals before they can do any damage: precrime.

In *Minority Report* the technology that John Anderton, Chief of the Department of Pre-Crime, uses identifies him as the next would-be criminal and targets him for preemptive measures. Anderton finds himself not only attempting to prove his innocence but forced to take drastic measures in order to avoid capture in a surveillance state that uses biometric data and sophisticated computer networks to track its citizens.

With every passing day, the American police state moves that much closer to mirroring the fictional pre-crime prevention world of *Minority Report*.

For instance, police in major American cities have been testing a tool that allows them to identify individuals—or groups of individuals—most likely to commit a crime. Those individuals are then put on notice that their movements and activities will be closely monitored and any criminal activity (by them or their associates) will result in harsh penalties.

In other words, the burden of proof is reversed: you are guilty before you are given any chance to prove you are innocent.

Red flag gun laws merely push us that much closer towards a suspect society where everyone is potentially guilty of some crime or another and must be preemptively rendered harmless.

In much the same way that the USA Patriot Act was used as a front

to advance the surveillance state, allowing the government to establish a far-reaching domestic spying program that turned every American citizen into a criminal suspect, the government's anti-extremism program renders otherwise lawful, nonviolent activities as potentially extremist.

All you need to do to end up on a government watch list or be subjected to heightened scrutiny is use certain trigger words (like cloud, pork and pirates), surf the internet, communicate using a cell phone, limp or stutter, drive a car, stay at a hotel, attend a political rally, express yourself on social media, appear mentally ill, serve in the military, disagree with a law enforcement official, call in sick to work, purchase materials at a hardware store, take flying or boating lessons, appear suspicious, confused or nervous, fidget or whistle or smell bad, be seen in public waving a toy gun or anything remotely resembling a gun, stare at a police officer, question government authority, appear to be pro-gun or pro-freedom, or generally live in the United States.

Once you get on a government pre-crime watch list—a terrorist, mental health, dissident, or red flag gun watch list—there's no clear-cut way to get off, whether or not you should actually be on there.

The government has been building its pre-crime, surveillance network in concert with fusion centers (of which there are 78 nationwide, with partners in the private sector and globally), data collection agencies, behavioral scientists, corporations, social media, and community organizers and by relying on cutting-edge technology for surveillance, facial recognition, predictive policing, biometrics, and behavioral epigenetics (in which life experiences alter one's genetic makeup).

It's the American police state's take on the dystopian terrors foreshadowed by George Orwell, Aldous Huxley and Phillip K. Dick all

rolled up into one oppressive pre-crime and pre-thought crime package.

This brings me back to those red flag gun laws.

In the long term, all these gun confiscation laws will do is ensure that when the police state finally cracks down, "we the people" are defenseless in the face of the government's arsenal of weapons.

John W. Whitehead is the president of The Rutherford Institute and author of *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*.

-- counterpunch.org Nov. 19, 2018

Australian judge sentences IS supporter to 38 years in jail

A supporter of the Islamic State group who helped a teenager kill a police accountant in Sydney was sentenced to 38 years in prison on Friday, as Australia's prime minister argued for greater government power to strip extremists of citizenship.

Milad Atai had pleaded guilty to assisting and encouraging Iranian-born Farhad Jabar, 15, to shoot Curtis Cheng on Oct. 2, 2015.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison outlined legislation to strip Australian citizenship from any dual national convicted of a terrorism offence.

He also wants to reduce the onus on his government to prove that an extremist is eligible for citizenship in another country. Since laws were enacted to revoke citizenship from extremists in 2015, nine dual nationals have lost citizenship and the government says another 50 are eligible to follow them. It currently applies to Australians who visit war zones controlled by the Islamic State group or those who are sentenced in an Australian court on terrorism charges to at least six years in prison.

Morry Bailes, president of the Law Council of Australia, said the proposed changes could breach Australia's international obligations by leaving people stateless.

Morrison said on Friday that extremists stripped of their citizenship could languish indefinitely in immigration detention if they could not be deported.

"If they are in a position not to be deported, they will remain in immigration detention," Morrison told the Seven Network television. "Their citizenship should go if you commit a terrorist act in Australia."

Attorney-General Christian Porter acknowledged some countries would refuse to take their citizens back.

This week, three Australian men of Turkish descent were charged with planning an Islamic State group-inspired mass-casualty attack in Melbourne, which would likely have happened over the busy Christmas period. Police said the plot had been thwarted with the arrests.

-- ABC News Nov. 23, 2018

Islam's Ripple Effect on World History

By Bill Federer

In the 12 years after Mohammed's death, 632-644 AD, Muslim jihadists conquered the Eastern Roman Empire, Syria, Palestine, Eastern Anatolia, Armenia, Upper Egypt, Lower Egypt and North Africa.

Muslim pirates then terrorized the Mediterranean, blockading trade routes. This caused economic disaster in Roman Europe by diminishing products moving East to West.

An important item no longer shipped was papyrus – reeds from the Nile delta which were used for paper in Europe. The sudden shortage of paper contributed to a decline in literacy, fewer books being written, and Europe entering the Dark Ages.

Similar to present-day reports of ISIS destroying 100,000 ancient books in the Central Library of Mosul, Iraq, the 7th century account is related of Muslim warriors destroying Egypt's ancient library in Alexandria – the largest and oldest library in the world.

The incident, according to Abd-Al-Latif of Baghdad (1162-1231) was that when Caliph Omar was asked what to do with Alexandria's Library, he replied: "If those books are in agreement with the Qur'an, we have no need of them; and if these are opposed to the Qur'an, destroy them."

It supposedly took six months to burn them all.

Ottoman Muslims sacked Constantinople in 1453. Graves were desecrated and the largest Christian Church in the world, the Hagia Sophia, was turned into a mosque.

The Ottoman conquest ended land trade routes from Europe to India and China. This led explorer Vasco de Gama to sail from Portugal around South Africa to India, 1497-1499, preceded five years earlier by Christopher Columbus attempting to sail west to India in 1492. Convinced he had reached India, Columbus named the people he met "Indians."

This began a period of exploration known as the Age of Discovery.

Ottoman Muslims invaded further into the Greece Byzantine Empire, destroying churches, schools, museums art and graves. Greeks hurriedly fled with their treasures, art and literature to Florence, Italy.

This flood of ancient culture into Western Europe sparked a rediscovery of Greek culture called the Renaissance.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), considered one of the Fathers of the French Revolution, owned a dog he named "Sultan." He wrote a "Discourse on the Arts and Sciences," (translated by Ian Johnston) 1750 stating: "Europe had fallen back into the barbarity. ... A revolution was necessary to bring men back to common sense, and it finally came from a quarter where one would least expect it. It was the stupid Muslim, the eternal blight on learning, who brought about its rebirth among us. The collapse of the throne of Constantine carried into Italy the debris of ancient Greece. France, in its turn, was enriched by these precious remnants. The sciences soon followed letters. To the art of writing was joined the art of thinking."

Greek scholars fleeing the Ottoman invasion also brought to Europe the Greek Bible, which was translated by Erasmus. This interest in the original language of New Testament – Greek – contributed to the Reformation, begun by Martin Luther in 1517. -- *Brought to you by An American Minute* Nov. 24, 2018

Review: *The History of Jihad: From Muhammad to ISIS*, by Robert Spencer

It is taken for granted, even among many Washington policymakers, that Islam is a fundamentally peaceful religion and that Islamic jihad terrorism is something relatively new, a product of the economic and political ferment of the twentieth century. But in *The History of Jihad: From Muhammad to ISIS*, Islamic scholar Robert Spencer proves definitively that Islamic terror is as old as Islam itself, as old as Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, who said "I have been made victorious through terror."

Spencer briskly traces the 1,400-year war of Islamic jihadis against the rest of the world, detailing the jihad against Europe, including the 700-year struggle to conquer Constantinople; the jihad in Spain,

where non-Muslims fought for another 700 years to get the jihadi invaders out of the country; and the jihad against India, where Muslim warriors and conquerors wrought unparalleled and unfathomable devastation in the name of their religion.

Told in great part in the words of contemporary chroniclers themselves, both Muslim and non-Muslim, *The History of Jihad* shows that jihad warfare has been a constant of Islam from its very beginnings, and present-day jihad terrorism proceeds along exactly the same ideological and theological foundations as did the great Islamic warrior states and jihad commanders of the past.

The History of Jihad: From Muhammad to ISIS is the first one-volume history of jihad in the English language, and the first book to tell the whole truth about Islam's bloody history in an age when Islamic jihadis are more assertive in Western countries than they have been for centuries. This book is indispensable to understanding the geopolitical situation of the twenty-first century and ultimately to formulating strategies to reform Islam and defeat radical terror.

-- Amazon.com book blurb

The incredible sci-fi innovations developed by DARPA

BULLETS that never miss, super soldiers with extreme strength and robot warriors capable of rising up against humans may sound like the stuff of science fiction... but the truth is that they have all already been developed.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is behind these space-age innovations, developed as part of its mission to revolutionise the way America fights the wars of the future.

The quest to give the US military an unbeatable edge has also led to DARPA developing a number of practical technologies which we now use every day: GPS, Google Maps and even the internet all have their origins in DARPA's secretive labs.

There's no doubt that these innovations of the future can be just as influential.

Imagine the incredible potential of a sniper bullet that changes its trajectory after it's been fired, guaranteeing that the shooter never misses.

Although DARPA is keeping quiet on how it does this, other sites report that the technology involves

optical sensors in the nose of the bullet and fins capable of adjusting the bullet's flight path in the tail.

DARPA claims that a novice shooter using the system for the first time was able to squarely hit a moving target.

Making superhuman soldiers

Coming soon to a battlefield near you: DARPA has developed an incredible exoskeleton - a wearable mobile machine - which transforms any infantryman into a super soldier.

A new study, where the suit was tested by seven soldiers on a 12-mile cross-country hike in Maryland, showed it reduced energy consumption by around 15 per cent, making troops more efficient and able to cover more ground.

Terminator robots which could destroy humanity

One of DARPA's big interests is the baffling world of artificial intelligence – smart computers which are capable of thinking in a similar way to humans.

The aim is to create lightning-fast military computers which can adapt to new situations, analyse battlefield data and ultimately advise soldiers and planners in the heat of a conflict, where every second counts.

However, AI critics warn that turning over the work of military analysis to machines creates the risk of a Skynet-style computer which could turn its considerable knowledge and power against humanity.

AI expert Professor Michael Horowitz, from the University of Pennsylvania, has said in interviews: "There's a lot of concern about AI safety – [about] algorithms that are unable to adapt to complex reality and thus malfunction in unpredictable ways.

"It's one thing if what you're talking about is a Google search, but it's another thing if what you're talking about is a weapons system."

Turning insects into weapons

One of DARPA's most controversial recent projects, Insect Allies, is designed to stop insects from being pests and harness their powers for good.

The idea is that leafhoppers, white flies and aphids can be used to protect the nation's food supply in the face of threats caused by drought, crop disease and bio-terrorism.

DARPA aims to achieve this by deliberately infecting insects with engineered viruses and mutations which can then be passed on to plants to make them hardier or resistant to biological attacks.

However, to some people the idea of using insects as farming tools isn't as innocent as it sounds.

Blake Bextine, who runs the project, acknowledged that Insect Allies involves new technologies that potentially could be used, in theory, as a novel weapon (in this case, using infected insects to cripple a rival's crop supply).

But the program manager told the Washington Post that almost all new technologies are capable of being weaponised. "I don't think that the public needs to be worried," he added. "I don't think that the international community needs to be worried."

Human experiments to create better brains

Some of DARPA's most incredible military research centres on the deadliest of weapons: the human mind.

DARPA, has funded human experiments at Wake Forest, the University of Southern California, and the University of Pennsylvania, with the aim of giving individuals a memory "boost."

Researchers implanted electrodes into one person's brain to record mental activity associated with recognising patterns and memorising word lists.

Then they reinforced that person's memory by playing back the recorded brain activity through the circuits, significantly improving their memory.

However, many people have questioned these findings, including former DARPA program manager Doug Weber.

He explained to The Atlantic that when scientists put electrodes in the brain, those devices eventually fail—after a few months or a few years, mainly because of blood leakage. -- www.thesun.co.uk 13 Nov. 2018

Michigan College Will Defend Against Potential School Shooters by Throwing 2,500 Hockey Pucks at Them

By Ewan Palmer

Students and faculty members at Oakland University in Michigan have been distributed with 2,500 hockey pucks as part of plans to protect themselves from a potential active shooter.

When asked how faculty members could protect themselves and others in a school that has a zero weapons policy, Oakland University Police Chief Mark Gordon suggested throwing something heavy—using a

puck as an example—if running or hiding is not an option.

Tom Discenna, president of the faculty union, put forward the notion to buy thousands of 94-cent hockey pucks.

"It's just the idea of having something, a reminder that you're not powerless and you're not helpless in the classroom," Discenna told the *Detroit Free Press*.

Gordon reiterated that using the puck should only be as an "absolute last strategy" and the school holds several training sessions a year which focuses on fleeing first or hiding.

However, Gordon does still see the merit of having dozens of hockey pucks in a classroom.

"Anything that you can throw that's heavy and will cause damage, because injury is the bottom line of what you're trying to do," Gordon said.

The pucks also have another purpose. Each disc is emblazoned with a number which people can enter on the university's website to donate money towards new locks at the school.

Currently, some of the school's doors are only lockable from the outside, not from inside the classroom, noted the student newspaper *The Oakland Post* in March. -- Newsweek November 28, 2018

[UN] General behind deadly Haiti raid takes aim at Brazil's gangs

By Gabriel Stargardter

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Thirteen years ago, a Brazilian general named Augusto Heleno led hundreds of United Nations troops into a Haitian slum to bring a powerful gangster to heel.

Over the course of a seven-hour gun battle, the peacekeepers sprayed more than 22,000 bullets into the impoverished Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Cite Soleil. Their target, a warlord known as Dread Wilme, was killed.

Various human rights groups called it a "massacre," alleging dozens of bystanders were killed in the crossfire, many of them women and children.

The episode, largely forgotten outside Haiti, may provide a road map for the security strategy of Brazil's next president, far-right former army captain Jair Bolsonaro. He has tapped Heleno to be his top national security advisor and wants the former general and other ex-Haiti hands to tame Brazil's favelas using methods employed in the slums of Port-au-Prince.

Brazil suffered a record 64,000 murders last year, the most in the world. Bolsonaro has promised no mercy for lawbreakers.

"We are at war. Haiti was also at war," Bolsonaro said in a recent TV interview. "(In Haiti), the rule was, you found an element with a firearm, you shoot, and then you see what happened. You solve the problem."

Heleno said in a recent radio interview that his rules of engagement in Haiti "can serve as a model for the rest of the country."

Brazil assumed military control of the U.N.'s mission to stabilize Haiti, known as MINUSTAH, in mid-2004. Heleno, Brazil's first MINUSTAH military commander, ordered 440 U.N. troops, supported by 41 armored vehicles and helicopters, into Cite Soleil to detain Wilme, whom U.S. cables described as Haiti's most powerful gangster.

"We have credible information that U.N. troops, accompanied by Haitian police, killed an undetermined number of unarmed residents of Cite Soleil, including several babies and women," Renan Hedouville, the head of a local nonprofit, Lawyers Committee for the Respect of Individual Rights, said at the time.

Juan Gabriel Valdes, MINUSTAH's civilian chief, said Heleno's soldiers were permitted by U.N. peacekeeping rules to return fire after they came under attack. MINUSTAH said Cite Soleil remained so volatile that it was impossible to conduct a full investigation to ascertain the death toll.

Heleno expressed disdain for those who questioned his actions, according to Seth Donnelly, a human rights worker in Haiti at the time. In a written report about the assault, Donnelly said Heleno told him and his fellow activists that they "only seemed to care about the rights of the 'outlaws.'" — November 29, 2018

Ed.: So, in 2004 the UN undertook the role of law enforcers; "the rule was, you found an element with a firearm, you shoot, and then you see what happened."

Study: 300K Anchor Babies Born Every Year

By John Binder

There are nearly 300,000 children of illegal aliens born in the United States every year.

Analysis by the *Center for Immigration Studies*' Steven Camarotta reveals that there are roughly 297,000

births per year to illegal immigrants in the U.S.

The children of illegal aliens are commonly known as "anchor babies," as they anchor their illegal alien and noncitizen parents in the U.S. and eventually are allowed to bring an unlimited number of foreign relatives to the country through the process known as "chain migration."

California — a sanctuary state for illegal aliens — has the largest number of illegal alien births with about 65,000 illegal alien births every year. Texas has about 51,000 illegal alien births every year, while Florida has about 16,000 illegal alien births every year.

The Supreme Court, however, has never explicitly ruled that the children of illegal aliens must be granted automatic citizenship and many legal scholars dispute the idea. There are at least 4.5 million anchor babies in the U.S. — exceeding the annual roughly 4 million American babies born every year.

Many leading conservative scholars argue the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment does not provide mandatory birthright citizenship to the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens or noncitizens, as these children are not subject to U.S. jurisdiction as that language was understood when the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified. -www.breitbart.com/2018/10/31

National Petition to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

Count U.S. Citizens Only

I, the undersigned United States citizen, do hereby declare my support for President Donald Trump's policy to include the question of citizenship in the 2020 Census.

I urge you, as Commerce Secretary, to never give in to the lawsuit from pro-illegal immigrant states and cities, and to keep the citizenship question on all census forms, so that we do NOT count illegal immigrants as U.S. Citizens.

-- United States Justice Foundation

Just in time for Christmas: Website scores companies on 2d Amendment stance

<https://2ndvote.com/company-scores/>

The NRA Lost \$55 million in income last year

That's according to the Daily Beast, which managed to get hold of the National Rifle Association's tax returns.

The NRA took in \$128m in membership dues in 2017, the Beast says — “a significant sum, but down considerably from the \$163m it took in the year prior”. It also reported \$98m in contributions — down from \$125m in 2016.

“That loss in funding comes at a tricky political moment for the organization. Rarely has the NRA had so staunch an ally in the White House. But the group, which built significant political heft on the back of Obama-era threats to key gun-rights priorities, has also become a lightning rod in the still-raging debate over gun control and mass shootings in the U.S. And several recently elected House Democrats ran explicitly on pledges to go after the gun lobby when in office.”

The Daily Beast story comes on the back of reports about cost-cutting within the NRA — apparently staff are no longer allowed free coffee — and after several staff members were reportedly fired from NRA TV, the group's video arm.

It is worth remembering, however, that the NRA likely found it much easier to sell its “they're about to take all your guns” message under Barack Obama than under a Republican president. There's a chance some of those members dropped off as they feel their AR-15s are safer — for now. -- www.theguardian.com 1 Dec. 2018

The Ignored Legacy of George H.W. Bush

By Mehdi Hasan

Tributes to former President George H.W. Bush, who died on Friday aged 94, have been pouring in. According to former president Barack Obama Bush's life was “a testament to the notion that public service is a noble, joyous calling. And he did tremendous good along the journey.”

It is true that the former president helped end the Cold War without, as Obama said, “firing a shot.” And, by all accounts, he was also a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather. [He also served bravely in World War II.]

Nevertheless, we cannot allow his actual record in office to be beautified.

Consider:

He ran a racist election campaign.

Willie Horton was serving a life sentence for murder in

Massachusetts — where Bush's Democratic opponent, Michael Dukakis, was governor — when he fled a weekend furlough program and raped a woman. A television ad released by a political action committee with ties to the Bush campaign made clear to viewers that Horton was black and his victim was white. Bush himself was quick to dismiss accusations of racism as “absolutely ridiculous,” yet it was clear even to right-wing Republican operatives such as Roger Stone, now a close ally of Trump — that the ad had crossed a line.

He made a dishonest case for war.

In the First Gulf war Bush told the American public that Iraq had invaded Kuwait “without provocation or warning.” What he omitted to mention was that the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie, had given an effective green light to Saddam Hussein, telling him in July 1990, a week before his invasion, “[W]e have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait.”

He committed war crimes.

For example, a U.S. airstrike on an air-raid shelter in Baghdad killed at least 408 Iraqi civilians. According to Human Rights Watch, the Pentagon knew the facility had been used as a civil defense shelter during the Iran-Iraq war and yet had attacked without warning.

By January 1992, Beth Osborne Daponte, a demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau, was estimating that Bush's Gulf War had caused the deaths of 158,000 Iraqis, including 13,000 immediate civilian deaths and 70,000 deaths [resulting] from the damage done to electricity and sewage treatment plants.

He escalated the racist war on drugs.

In September 1989, in a televised address, Bush held up a bag of crack cocaine, which he said had been “seized a few days ago in a park across the street from the White House.”

Bush cynically used this prop — the bag of crack — to call for a \$1.5 billion increase in spending on the drug war, declaiming: “We need more prisons, more jails, more courts, more prosecutors.”

The result? “Millions of Americans were incarcerated, hundreds of billions of dollars wasted,” pointed out Ethan Nadelmann, founder of the Drug Policy Alliance in 2014. Today, even Republicans, such as Chris Christie and Rand Paul, agree that the war on drugs has been a dismal and racist failure.

He groped women.

Since the start of the #MeToo movement, in late 2017, at least eight different women have come forward with claims that the former president groped them, in most cases while they were posing for photos with him.

Facts matter. The 41st president of the United States was not the last Republican moderate or a throwback to an imagined age of conservative decency and civility; he engaged in race baiting and war crimes.

-- theintercept.com/2018/12/01

Ed.: And what Bush oversaw as head of the CIA we may never know.

Does Diversity Really Unite Us?

By Edward J. Erler

Our progressive politicians and opinion leaders proclaim their commitment to diversity almost daily, chanting the same refrain: “Diversity is our strength.” This is the gospel according to political correctness. But how does diversity strengthen us? Is it a force for unity and cohesiveness? Or is it a source of division and contention? Does it promote the common good and the friendship that rests at the heart of citizenship? Or does it promote racial and ethnic division and something that resembles the tribalism that prevents most of the world from making constitutional government a success? When is the last time we heard anyone in Washington talk about the common good? We are used to hear talk about the various stakeholders and group interests, but not much about what the nation has in common.

This should not be surprising. Greater diversity means inevitably that we have less in common, and the more we encourage diversity the less we honor the common good. Any honest and clear-sighted observer should be able to see that diversity is a solvent that dissolves the unity and cohesiveness of a nation — and we should not be deceived into believing that its proponents do not understand the full impact of their advocacy!

Diversity, of course, marches under the banner of tolerance, but is a bastion of intolerance. It enforces its ideological liberalism with an iron fist that is driven by political correctness, the most ingenious (and insidious) device for suppressing freedom of speech and political dissent ever invented.... -- *Imprimis*
July/August 2018

Appeals court upholds N.J. ban on high-capacity gun magazines

(UPI) -- A federal appeals court has upheld a New Jersey law that bans the sale of high-capacity gun magazines, after a legal challenge that may end up in the Supreme Court.

New Jersey adopted the ban in response to the popularity of high-capacity magazines in high-profile mass shootings, such as the attack in Las Vegas a year ago that killed 58 people.

The ban was a defeat for gun rights activists who say the state's law violates the Second, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Wednesday, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia voted 2-1 to uphold a lower court ruling in September that upheld the legality of the ban. The challenge was brought in a lawsuit by the Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs.

The N.J. Law Journal reported the state's law mimics others in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York, in that it limits firearm magazines to hold a maximum of 10 rounds.

Judge Stephanos Bibas, emphasized in a 19-page dissent that New Jersey law also hampers those who want to use larger-capacity magazines for self-defense.

-- December 6, 2018

Deputy who did not confront Parkland gunman claims 'no legal duty' to act

The deputy who stood by while the February 14, 2018, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting was taking place asked a judge to rule that he had "no legal duty" to protect the students.

The *Sun-Sentinel* reports that Scot Peterson's attorney, Michael Piper, told Judge Englander Henning, "We want to say he had an obligation, but the law isn't that. From a legal standpoint, there was no duty."

Henning rejected Piper's

argument, opining that Peterson had an "obligation to act reasonably" in response to the shooting.

The suit against Peterson is a wrongful death suit brought by Andrew Pollack, father of Parkland shooting victim Meadow Pollack.

Today.com reports that Peterson arrived on scene outside Building 12 shortly after the attack had begun, then allegedly stood outside for another five minutes as the attack concluded.

Andrew Pollack filed the wrongful death suit against Peterson. After filing the suit, Pollack tweeted: *I filed a wrongful death suit against Deputy Peterson today. I want to expose that coward so bad. Where ever he goes I want people to recognize him and say that's one of the cowards of Broward. The SRO that let those children and teachers die on the 3rd floor!* -- breitbartnews.com 12 Dec 2018

Parkland panel advises arming teachers to handle school attacks

Teachers should be armed, schools should have better security and law enforcement needs more training to prevent massacres like the one that occurred in Parkland, Fla., this year.

The Florida commission said it found too many doors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School unlocked, police officers didn't respond adequately to stop the attacker and the "Code Red" alarm wasn't sounded quickly enough.

The Feb. 14 shooting killed 17 and rekindled national debate on arming teachers, and other preventative measures. The panel recommended that teachers be allowed to carry guns if they go through a background check and receive proper training. That would require approval by the Florida legislature.

The primary blame goes to former school resource officer Scot Peterson, who the panel called "derelict in his duty" because he went outside when the shooting began.

The report also calls for the Broward Sheriff's Office to conduct an

internal review of the performance of six deputies who heard gun shots but failed to engage the shooter. They spent time retrieving ballistic vests before confronting the gunman. The conduct, it adds, was "unacceptable and contrary to accepted protocol under which the deputies should have immediately moved toward the gunshots to confront the shooter."

Shooter Nicholas Cruz is awaiting trial on murder charges and faces the death penalty.

Commission member Max Schachter, whose son died in the shooting, cast the lone "no" vote for arming teachers. He said he's talked to many teachers who oppose it.

-- UPI December 13, 2018

The power of spider webs

Hundreds of years ago, people put spider webs on their wounds because they believed it would help stop the bleeding. Scientists now know that the silk contains vitamin K, which helps reduce bleeding.

-- Provided by FactRetriever.com

Man beaten to death trying to protect woman in Arlington

Getting into a violent confrontation unarmed can be extremely dangerous, especially if the bad guy is bigger, stronger, and meaner than you or is high on drugs. A few kicks to your head while you are down and you'll be meeting the Grim Reaper. It can even be dangerous if you are armed.

You always have the option in a case like this to simply call the police and to be a good witness while you await their arrival. It's not your job to provide security for other adults who are perfectly capable of getting their own firearm and their own CHP, but choose not to do so.

Based on a *wjla.com/news* report
-- VA-ALERT: VCDL Mini-Update 12/12/18

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

ISSN 1523-4657

Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email to others who have never seen the hard copies.

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